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JOHN MITCHELL, JR., - EDITOR.  
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Entered at the Post Office at Richmond, Va., as second class matter.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25, 1909.

PRESIDENT TAFT CALLS A HALT.

President William H. Taft, thank God has seen fit to send a letter to a local newspaper at Washington, D. C., declaring himself to be unequivocally opposed to the suffrage restrictions in Maryland which are manifestly intended to discriminate against the colored people. He is quoted as follows:

"It is deliberately drawn to impose educational and other qualifications for the suffrage upon Negroes and to exempt everybody else from such qualifications. This is gross injustice and I say, violation of the spirit of the fifteenth amendment. It will, to be voted down by every one whether Democrat or Republican who is in favor of a square deal."

This is surprising language from a statesman who has travelled through Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas where such conditions exist in one form or the other, and who has seen fit to condemn these conditions rather than condemn them.

This fact makes his present declarations all the more surprising and it tends to show that he has witnessed more than enough of this kind of legislation. Still, his present declarations have deeply impressed us and if he will continue to stand by them and in the language of the street, "stay hitched" to them there will be cause for rejoicing among every lover of truth and justice in this broad land of ours.

We shall watch with interest the result of this contest in Maryland. If President Taft maintains his position and continues to exert his influence with the people of that state, regardless of party, the defeat of this pernicious legislation is a foregone conclusion.

A NEGRO AT THE NORTH POLE.

Now comes the announcement from Commander Peary, declaring that Matthew Henson, a citizen of color, an Afro-American, better known in the Southland as the only civilized man, who was with him when he reached the North Pole.

As the statements of Dr. Cook have been questioned, Mr. Henson comes into the lime-light as a most important witness in the controversy throwing the preponderance of evidence to Commander Peary as Dr. Cook did not have a civilized man with him when he reached the spot

which he alleged to be the location of the North Pole.

It seems strange, but it is nevertheless true that the Negro has figured in practically all of the important events in this country. The white folks had the Revolutionary War. The Negro was there. The white folks had the War of 1812. The Negro was there. The white folks had the Indian Wars. The Negro was there. The white folks had the Mexican War. The Negro was there. The white folks had the Civil War. The Negro was there. The white folks had the Spanish-American War. The Negro was there.

The white folks have had the Philippine Wars. The Negro was there. The white folks have discovered the North Pole, and now, bless God, the Negro was there. He is the child of sorrow, the creature of oppression, and the object of pity, affection and admiration, hewn out from the rough material to occupy a place of honor and admiration in the universe of the Creator.

#### NORTHERN LEGISLATION.

The Detroit, Michigan Leader announces that at the last session of the legislature of Michigan a bill was enacted into law which is a duplicate of the one passed by the Georgia legislature against Negro secret societies, having any colorable name or title which would indicate that they are in any manner similar to white organizations of a similar name or title.

The Leader calls it "trick" legislation as no colored person seemed to have been cognizant of its intent, purpose or the reason for its passage. It is as much a crime to wear an Elk's pin in Michigan as it is in Georgia. The legislation against us in Georgia is the work of Democrats. The legislation in Michigan is the work of Republicans.

It can be readily observed that they are working along similar lines. It is asserted that this law has been placed upon the statute books of over twenty states already. Its effect will be far-reaching. In Virginia, we should be able to prevent it, if discretion and good judgment are exercised in approaching the statesmen in charge of affairs here.

It has always been the aim of the better class of white men to have us imitate their good traits. We do not in any way antagonize them along these lines or even compete with them, for the reason that we move along entirely different paths. We parallel them, but we never cross over so to speak. We notice even on the large works where hundreds of white and colored men are employed that they encourage the organization of secret orders for the reason that it improves the laborer and tends to cause him to remain longer in one place.

Property has been purchased, colored orders incorporated, deeds in these incorporated names entered upon the records of the courts of chancery in the commonwealths and it would be a most pernicious policy to upset all of this and to plunge the law abiding colored people of this and other commonwealths into a needless, and may seem to be an endless litigation.

It will be well for the conservative colored men here to "take time by the forelock" and to take steps to check any such movements by appealing to the better class of white people of Virginia to whom we have never yet applied in vain. The time has passed when we can expect aid or comfort in these matters from the national government.

Whether we win or lose, we should look to His Excellency, Claude A. Swanson, Governor of Virginia and to his successor, the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, the legislature of Virginia, the Mayors and councils of the cities of the commonwealth and to the business men with whom we deal in order to get that simple justice and fair-play which is as coy as a maiden and as hard to catch as the proverbial snow-bird in the winter-time.

**The Connoisseur.**  
While pointing lips, observers say,  
Life's sweetest smiles are missing,  
The pointing kind when caught that way—  
Are best of all for kissing.

**Her One Regret.**  
The Bride—Oh, darling, our honeymoon was the loveliest ever.  
The Groom—It certainly was, dearest.

The Bride—And I have only one regret—I may never have the pleasure of going through another.

**A Question to the Point.**  
"This idea which I have embodied in my invention," said the genius, "will be an epochmaker."  
"Perhaps," rejoined Mr. Dustin Stax, thoughtfully. "But will it be a money-maker?"

**Appropriate Rates.**  
"What will you give me, sir, for this article for your paper on the relation of Mars to the solar system?"  
"I guess we can give you space rates."

## COOK REACHED HOME TUESDAY

Arctic Explorer Warmly Received in Brooklyn.

### MET FAMILY AT QUARANTINE

Thousands of Persons Welcomed Physicist Back, and After Parade He Held a Reception—Peary Arrives at Sydney on His Way to New York.

New York, Sept. 21.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook, who unfurled the American flag at the North Pole April 21, 1909, arrived in Brooklyn Tuesday. When the steamship Oscar II. arrived at quarantine Dr. Cook met his wife and two children and the executive committee of the Arctic Club of America. After exchanging greetings the party was transferred to the steamboat Republic, and the explorer was cheered to the echo by the 1000 or more persons on board. The Republic then proceeded to Brooklyn. Here thousands were awaiting his arrival, and amid music, cheering and a gorgeous display of flags and bunting the parade was formed. Seated in an automobile, Dr. Cook bowed right and left and frequently lifted his hat in response to cheers. A triumphal arch has been erected opposite his old home, under which the parade of automobiles, with the explorer in the foremost, passed enroute to the Bushwick club. There his old friends and neighbors flocked to meet him.

A reception was held at the Bushwick club, which is in Dr. Cook's home section of Brooklyn, and he was pelted with questions about his trip as he shook hands with thousands of his friends and neighbors.

Later Dr. Cook joined his family at the Waldorf-Astoria. His plans thereafter, with the exception of being the guest of honor at the banquet of the Arctic Club of America, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria on Thursday night, have not been announced.

Dr. Cook appears to exercise great self-restraint, but can hardly repress a natural annoyance at impeachment of his veracity, without proofs. He requested the Associated Press to make public the following:

"I have come from the pole. I have brought my story and my data with me. I have not come home to enter into arguments with one man or with fifty men, but I am here to present a clear record of a piece of work over which I have a right to display a certain amount of pride.

"I am perfectly willing to abide by the final verdict on this record of competent judges. That must be the last word, and that alone can satisfy me and the public.

"Furthermore, not only will my report be before you in black and white, but I will also bring to America human witnesses to prove that I have been to the pole."

### PEARY AT SYDNEY

Large Crowds Welcomed Explorer and Business Was Suspended.

Sydney, N. S. W., Sept. 21.—Commander Robert E. Peary arrived here on the Roosevelt on his return to New York. News that Peary was nearing port caused a general cessation of business in the town. Large crowds swarmed into the streets and to the water front to welcome the explorer. All manner of water craft, from yachts to sailboats, sporting their colors, moved down the bay when three blasts of the whistle were heard, which was the signal that the Roosevelt was approaching.

The tug C. M. Winch, gaily decorated with flags, conveyed the official welcome party down the bay at an early hour. This party included the mayor of Sydney, Wallace Richardson; the heads of the city departments and other prominent officials.

Mrs. Peary, her daughter Marie and little Robert E. Peary met the commander at Paul's Island, having sailed north on the steam yacht Sheelah, owned by James Ross, president of the Dominion Coal company.

Commander Peary will accept no invitations to receptions and no public honors until the question of the discovery of the North Pole has been decided by scientific authorities. This he made known in the following statement, which he gave out for publication:

"Acting upon the advice of General Thomas H. Hubbard and Herbert L. Bridgman, president and secretary respectively of the Peary Arctic club, I wish to express my thanks to friends for their kind offers and invitations, and also beg to say that I have decided not to accept any invitations to receptions, or any ovations, until the present controversy is settled by competent authorities."

Commander Peary supplemented this briefly. He was asked when the public was likely to get a decision on this subject, and he replied: "I do not know, but what I have to say will not be very long delayed. Whether my statement will be issued in one week or two weeks depends upon circumstances."

When the Roosevelt lay at the city wharf an eager throng of sight-seers visited the ship and went through her from stem to stern. Souvenir hunters carried away everything portable, and many valuable records and data belonging to Professor McMillan were lost. These were records of tides and animal life north of 82 degrees latitude, the names of all the Eskimos in the Etah region, together with more than a hundred books in which many important marginal notes had been made. No records bearing on the dash to the pole were lost. The missing books are of immense value and cannot be replaced, but the authorities are issuing a public appeal for their return.

## COMPANY'S MASCOT.

It was on the morning of Sept. 7, 1863, that the Confederate General Frazier was asked by General Burnside to surrender Cumberland gap. As General Burnside had retreated toward Chattanooga while General Burnside's forces lay at the gap, the garrison felt secure against attacks by the Confederates. The Federal army was in possession of Knoxville, and General Burnside had ordered to the gap six teen regiments and two trains of artillery. The Confederate force, under General Frazier, was about 1,000 strong, stationed at Morristown, where he could control the railroad with supplies for General Buckner's army. The former was ordered to meet the advance of the Federals, who were marching toward Knoxville.

His hope was, we afterward learned, that a part of General R. E. Lee's army of northern Virginia would reinforce him before our march of thirty-six miles could be made. But he had reckoned without the Union host. We showed a front so formidable that General Frazier wisely laid down his arms, and Generals Buckner and Jones fled across the mountains of east Tennessee.

General Longstreet had evidently expected that General D. H. Hill's corps that occupied a secure position at Gettysburg, in Pigeon mountain, which was about fifteen miles from Chattanooga, a spur of Lookout mountain, would come to his relief, but as General Hindman and Hill still hoped for success from Buckner the opportunity to evacuate voluntarily was lost.

It was at this juncture that General Thomas moved upon Hill's left wing and closed the gateway to Buckner's force. This was the turning point in the speedy victory for the Union in Tennessee. It was at Gordon's Mills that we met General Pat Cleburn.

A crash of musketry made us reel early in the engagement, and the fire was so terrific that we were obliged to withdraw to a better position on the hill. This night came on.

General Cleburn's men were just over the brow of the hill, so close that we could hear their voices as they called back and forth to each other. Like ours, their camp was unlighted. Every well regulated company, it is said, owns a mascot.

The mascot of Company H was Teddy. If he had any other name we did not know it, and I doubt if he did. He was a harmless sort of half wild dog that followed the army from the Ohio border. He was a happy-go-lucky wight, rarely understanding the simplest things said to him, but his unflinching cheerfulness and good nature had won for him the honor place of mascot of the company. He was the possessor of a very fine regimental flag, and he seemed not to know how it became his, but his devotion to it was so absolute that we had learned to respect it.

The Confederates were early astir, and we could hear the horses clamping their bits and the men exchanging words about the preparations for the day. Of course they tried the bluff game on us of raising shouts every now and then, as if re-enforcements had come. We were ready for the hard day to come, resting on our arms, waiting for the signal of battle.

Suddenly, about 7 o'clock, a flurry was felt in the air, and a crash came. General Cleburn's men had struck our right wing, and that awful rebel yell sounded in our ears, sharply reverberating through the pass, and we knew that something unexpected had occurred. We had no time to question what that might be, but later we learned that General Buckner's men had strengthened our neighbor's force and that we were in for the conflict for good or ill. We were surprised, for we had not expected it to occur until much later in the day. The din became horrible. Somehow we felt that a crisis not altogether to be desired by us was at hand.

At this desperate juncture Teddy was seen to run to the rear and plant himself on a hillock some 200 yards away. Here he unfurled his flag. I shall never forget the thrill that swept my soul as the folds of that splendid banner floated to the breeze. Was it his appeal to high heaven in our behalf?

I wondered then; I think so now. The sun seemed to wrap its stars and stripes in a very glory of brightness. Then the band played, as if answering the call of its colors, "The Star Spangled Banner," and a shout to match that of the rebels rose on the air.

The flag with the cross of the south was plainly to be seen in the advancing line. Suddenly the maddening cries of the Confederates ceased, and we saw their columns waver, the flag come down, and there followed a clear, determined retreat. It is a matter of history to those who bore the brunt of that unexpected attack that if the enemy had carried out their original intention to engage us before the second division came to our relief the history of that "battle among the clouds" would have had a different telling. After all, it is but the repetition of the fact that we are the creatures of circumstances. An officer taken prisoner at the fight told us that when the Confederates saw the flag and "knew that we had been re-enforced they thought it best not to force the fight, as without Buckner's help it would have been a terrible disaster."

And so it was that Teddy's flag, the mascot of Company H, had done the work. You may call it a special providence if you will, but the facts are as I tell them and as many a bluecoat whose nostrils were blackened by powder that day at Gordon's Mills will testify.

**The Largest Grapevine.**  
The largest grapevine in the world is 120 years old and is at San Gabriel, Cal., planted by Franciscan friars. The stalk is one and a half feet in diameter and eight feet high, and the branches and foliage cover an area of 5,000 square feet. Its average crop of grapes is two and a half tons yearly. It forms the summer dining place of the San Gabriel hotel.

## They Are Against Us.

Continued from First page.

does not protect the people from trick legislation. "This law determines the right to use any particular fraternal society name according to priority of time in organization and adoption of the title, whether such user was in or out of the state, and provides protection of this right by injunction and criminal proceedings against the offending body or person. It will be apparent to any one that should this law be strictly enforced all except three or the larger colored lodges will be forced out of business in this state."

As great events often cast their shadow before their coming, this situation was noted in the swelling tide of prejudice manifested in Detroit and elsewhere in recent years. Had those who tried to allay this sentiment received a more cordial support things might have been otherwise, for then public opinion would have been a buckler to protect our people from injury. The situation is crucial and should be given immediate attention and sober thought.

Here is the law: Sec. 1. No male person, society, association or corporation shall assume, adopt or use the name of a benevolent, humane, fraternal or charitable organization, incorporated under the laws of this or any other state, or of the United States, or a name so nearly resembling the name of such benevolent organization as to be a colorable imitation thereof, or calculated to deceive persons not members, with respect to such corporation. In all cases where two or more such societies, associations or corporations claim the right to the same name, or to the names substantially similar as above provided, the organization which was first organized and used the name, and the first became incorporated under the laws of the United States or of any state in the Union, shall be entitled in this State to the prior and exclusive use of such name, and the rights of such societies, associations or corporations and of their individual members shall be fixed and determined accordingly.

Sec. 2. No person shall wear or exhibit the badge, button, emblem, decoration, insignia or charm, or shall assume or use the name of any benevolent, humane, fraternal or charitable corporation, incorporated under the laws of this or any other state or of the United States, or shall assume or claim to be a member thereof, or of a benevolent, humane, fraternal or charitable corporation, the name of which so nearly resembles the name of any other corporation existing prior to the organization of the corporation or association of which such person may claim to be a member, the name whereof may be calculated to deceive the people with respect to any such prior corporation, unless he shall be authorized under the law, statutes, rules, regulations and by-laws of such former corporations, to wear such badge, button, emblem, decoration, insignia, or charm, or to use and assume such name as members thereof.

Sec. 3. Whenever there shall be an actual or threatened violation of the above act an application may be made to the court or judge having jurisdiction to issue an injunction upon notice to the defendant of not less than five days, restraining such actual or threatened violation, or if justice shall appear to such court or judge that the defendant is in fact using the name of such benevolent, humane, fraternal or charitable corporation, incorporated as aforesaid, or a name so nearly resembling it as to be calculated to deceive the public, or wearing or exhibiting the badge, insignia, or emblem, of such corporation without authority thereof, and in violation of the above act, an injunction may be issued by said court or judge, enjoining or restraining such actual or threatened violation, without requiring proof that any person has in fact been misled or deceived thereby.

Sec. 4. Any person violating the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, fined not exceeding fifty dollars, or imprisoned in the county jail not exceeding thirty days or both such fine and imprisonment.

Approved June 2, 1909.

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATES. OYSTER SITUATION IS SATISFACTORY.

Finds All Bivalves Now Supplied For Market are Healthy.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 20.—(Special.) The oyster situation in Virginia is eminently satisfactory from the sanitary standpoint according to an official statement given out today by the State Health Department. Experts in the service of the department have recently examined the oyster beds along the Chesapeake and have issued health certificates to scores of tongs and planters. This investigation is the outcome of the agitation of last winter, when reports were circulated to the effect that unhealthy oysters were being supplied to northern markets by Virginia dealers. These reports did great damage to the oyster industry and threatened, for a time, to bankrupt a number of large packers.

At the request of the oyster men, the State Health Department last winter made an investigation of the situation, and found that conditions had been greatly exaggerated in the popular press. A few planting beds were found in an unsanitary condition, but the majority were above suspicion.

The investigation just concluded was intended by the health authorities to inspect the plants that were condemned last year. Health officers found that all the dangerous oyster grounds had been abandoned and that uniform improvements had been made.

The decision of the health authorities was received with approval by those interested in the oyster industry here, and has already led to general rejoicing in the oyster section of the state.

### CONDENSED NEWS ITEMS.

Thursday, September 16.

John J. Swanger's flour mill at Myerstown, Pa., was destroyed by fire, entailing a loss of \$10,000.

Lester Phillips, twenty-two years old, was crushed to death at New Holland, Pa., when six tons of rock fell from the side of a quarry in which he was working.

Pay Director James A. Ring, senior officer of the pay corps of the navy and for many years in charge of the pay office at Portsmouth, N. H., retired on account of age.

Because Mrs. Jessie Gabel, a widow, refused to marry him, Charles Eason shot and killed the woman at Fort Worth, Tex., and after drinking the contents of a two-ounce bottle of carbolic acid sent a bullet through his brain.

Friday,